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Agenda item 117

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/61/592/Add.4)*]

61/263. Strengthened and unified security management system

The General Assembly,

Recalling section XI of its resolution 59/276 of 23 December 2004, by which it established the Department of Safety and Security of the Secretariat in order to ensure a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations,

Recalling also its resolutions 56/255 of 24 December 2001, 56/286 of 27 June 2002, 57/305 of 15 April 2003, 58/270 of 23 December 2003 and 58/295 of 18 June 2004,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations;[1] measures taken to improve the operational administration of existing cost-sharing arrangements for safety and security;[2] a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations: standardized access control;[3] and the coverage of staff by the malicious acts insurance policy and security spending by organizations of the United Nations system;[4] the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services concerning the utilization and management of funds approved by the General Assembly for strengthening the safety and security of United Nations premises[5] and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments thereon;[6] the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the global audit of field security management;[7] and the note by the Secretariat on information and communication technology security, business continuity and disaster recovery,[8]

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[1] A/61/531.
[2] A/61/223.
[3] A/60/695 and A/61/566.
[4] A/60/317 and Corr.1.
[5] A/60/291.
[6] A/60/291/Add.1.
[7] A/59/702.
[8] A/60/677.

Having also considered the relevant reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[9]

Emphasizing the importance of safety and security for all United Nations staff and premises,

Recognizing the important steps taken by the Department of Safety and Security in ensuring an effective and professional system-wide security management system,

Underlining the importance of achieving the highest levels of professionalism and expertise within the United Nations security management,

Reaffirming the critical importance of cooperation and coordination among all United Nations entities in the implementation of a unified and integrated system-wide policy for safety and security,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations;[1] measures taken to improve the operational administration of existing cost-sharing arrangements for safety and security;[2] a strengthened and unified security management system for the United Nations: standardized access control;[3] and the coverage of staff by the malicious acts insurance policy and security spending by organizations of the United Nations system;[4] the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services concerning the utilization and management of funds approved by the General Assembly for strengthening the safety and security of United Nations premises[5] and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments thereon;[6] the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the global audit of field security management;[7] and the note by the Secretariat on information and communication technology security, business continuity and disaster recovery;[8]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Notes* the intention of the Department of Safety and Security to gradually assume a leading role in crisis response and crisis management for the United Nations system, and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to provide detailed information on the project and its related costs in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008–2009;

4. *Reaffirms* the importance of a system-wide policy with regard to the safety and security of United Nations staff, and the unity of command in this regard;

5. *Emphasizes* the need for a comprehensive safety and security policy framework at the United Nations which provides the basis for the threat and risk assessment, cooperation with the host countries, cost-sharing arrangements and operations of the Department of Safety and Security, and requests the Secretary-General to present such a framework to the General Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixty-second session;

6. *Stresses* that safety is a vital aspect of the mandate of the Department of Safety and Security, and requests the Secretary-General to conduct a comprehensive

[9] A/60/7/Add.9, 33 and 35 (for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixtieth Session, Supplement No. 7A*) and A/61/642.

review of the existing safety programmes at Headquarters and the duty stations and to report thereon to the General Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixty-second session;

7. *Reiterates* the principle that the United Nations Secretariat, organizations, funds and programmes share a common responsibility for the safety and security of their staff;

8. *Underlines* the principle that funding for safety and security, based on cost-sharing arrangements, should be clear, predictable and secure;

9. *Recalls* paragraphs 50 and 52 of section XI of its resolution 59/276, in which it called upon all entities participating in the cost-sharing arrangements to provide prompt and secure funding for such arrangements, and for those in arrears to ensure prompt payment of the outstanding sums;

10. *Notes* the process of consultations being undertaken between the Department of Safety and Security and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, including on the strategic directions and operational requirements of security arrangements for the field to encourage ownership of the process and enhance their participation;

11. *Notes with concern* the situation outlined in paragraph 11 of the report of the Secretary-General[2] regarding the disagreement leading to the non-participation of the World Bank in field-related security costs, and emphasizes that this could hinder the coordination of the security operations in the field;

12. *Requests*, in this regard, the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to carry out consultations with the World Bank with the aim of resolving this issue, as a matter of urgency;

13. *Invites* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and with the aim of achieving a workable cost-sharing arrangement:

(*a*) To ensure a common interpretation and implementation of all policies related to safety and security;

(*b*) To encourage the development of practical methods to ensure the effective implementation of the arrangements in place for the sharing of costs for safety and security across the United Nations system;

(*c*) To continue discussions with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to achieve greater transparency in the different sources of security-related costs;

(*d*) To submit a report on steps taken to implement subparagraphs (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) above as well as on expenditures related to safety and security as compared to the total expenditures of specialized agencies, funds and programmes to the General Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixty-second session;

14. *Welcomes* the efforts of host countries in undertaking their responsibilities to ensure the safety and security of United Nations staff and premises;

15. *Emphasizes* that the primary responsibility for ensuring the safety and security of United Nations staff and premises rests with the host country, emphasizes also the role of the relevant host country agreements in defining this responsibility and, in this regard, reiterates its request to the Secretary-General

contained in paragraph 27 of section XI of its resolution 59/276 to report on the updating and revision of host country agreements as well as on the different capacities of host countries to provide security to the United Nations;

16. *Notes* the efforts of the Department of Safety and Security in cooperating with the national authorities of respective host countries in undertaking security risk assessment and management, and urges the Department to ensure cooperation with host countries and to ensure also that they are kept fully informed;

17. *Recognizes* the expanded training initiatives that have been implemented by the Department of Safety and Security, and encourages the Department to maintain training as a high priority and, in this context, to continue the collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as the United Nations System Staff College at Turin, Italy;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services with a comprehensive management audit, inter alia, focusing on the structure of the Department of Safety and Security, recruitment procedures and the implementation of section XI of General Assembly resolution 59/276, and the interaction, cooperation and coordination of the Department with other Secretariat entities, including but not limited to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and to report thereon to the Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixty-second session;

19. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 17, 18 and 20 of section XI of its resolution 59/276;

20. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts of the Secretary-General to achieve as wide a geographical balance as possible in the Department of Safety and Security, without compromising the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, and urges the Secretary-General to continue such efforts, taking into account the proposals to effectively increase the representation of developing countries in the Secretariat requested of the Secretary-General in paragraph 17 of section X of its resolution 61/244 of 22 December 2006;

21. *Recalls* paragraph 1 of section XI of its resolution 61/244, in which it reaffirmed the goal of 50/50 gender distribution in all categories of posts within the United Nations system, especially at the senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, and regrets that progress towards attaining this goal has been slow;

22. *Takes note*, in this context, of paragraph 42 of the report of the Secretary-General[1] and urges him to continue his efforts to achieve greater gender parity in the Department of Safety and Security, and invites Member States to assist the Secretary-General in this regard;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on steps taken to implement paragraphs 20, 21 and 22 above to the General Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixty-second session;

24. *Emphasizes* the importance of gaining efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of the approved projects through improved streamlining, setting benchmarks, meeting the timelines for different phases of the projects and administrative and managerial oversight and strengthening of accountability;

25. *Emphasizes also* the importance of taking full account of lessons learned and best practices at all duty stations with a view to facilitating the implementation

of the first phase of the standardized access control system, and requests the Secretary-General to report thereon, including on any possible efficiency gains, to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session;

26. *Takes note* of the observation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in paragraph 16 of its report,[10] and requests the Secretary-General to develop and implement effective measures to guarantee the highest level of protection of personal data available in the standardized access control system;

27. *Decides* that data related to representatives of Member States and officials other than Secretariat officials and experts on mission,[11] as recorded in the standardized access control system, shall be subject to the full implementation of the following provisions:

(*a*) The data shall be recorded for the sole purpose of establishing the presence or absence of persons on the premises in case of emergency preparedness and recovery operations;

(*b*) Only staff members of the Department of Safety and Security, formally certified by the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, and duly informed of the provisions of the present paragraph, shall have access to the above-mentioned data, which shall under no circumstances be made available to any other party either inside or outside the United Nations unless so required for the purposes of the emergency preparedness and recovery operations referred to in subparagraph (*a*) above;

(*c*) The data shall be automatically deleted from the standardized access control system after completion of the read-in/read-out cycle, which will be no later than twenty-four hours for access data and no later than thirty days for digital video storage data;

(*d*) Violation of any of the provisions stipulated in subparagraphs (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) above shall constitute serious misconduct under staff regulation 10.2;

28. *Takes note* of the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraph 7 of its report,[10] and decides to revert to this issue in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008–2009, also taking into account paragraph 27 of section XI of its resolution 59/276;

29. *Decides* to authorize the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to 20,208,000 United States dollars under the programme budget for the biennium 2006–2007, 1,500,000 dollars under the budget for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and 1,975,000 dollars under the budget for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, without prejudice to the implementation of projects previously approved for the biennium 2006–2007, to be reported in the context of the respective second performance reports, to implement the first phase of the standardized access control system;

30. *Stresses* the importance of fully implementing projects provided for under section 32, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006–2007, and requests the Secretary-

[10] A/61/642.

[11] See ST/SGB/2002/9.

General, in the event that the implementation of the first phase referred to in paragraph 29 above will impact previously approved projects, to report on such impact, for its consideration.

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4 April 2007